



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

"The next ten years proved the drawbacks of a single chamber government and the difficulty of creating a new Second Chamber." One cannot do better in evaluating the book and the revolution it describes than by following the author's own example of copious quotation. The penultimate paragraph contains the gist of the whole matter and nowhere are the political and constitutional results of the long conflict better summed up in such brief compass. "The initiative permanently transferred from one House to the other, the eyes of the nation permanently fixed upon the deliberations of the House of Commons instead of those of the Lords, these were the results of the civil war and the movement which led up to it. They pointed not to the subordination of one House to the other but to the further differentiation of their functions. Hard experience had convinced Englishmen of the necessity of a second chamber, and our modern English theory of the functions of such an institution had been worked out between 1640 and 1660. Even republicans were converted by events to the bicameral theory." Yet, acclaimed as the book will undoubtedly be by the upholders of the ancient order, strongly as it makes for many of their contentions, full as it is of fact and argument which strengthen their cause, one consideration remains. The England of 1911 is, after all, not the England of the Puritan Revolution, the Lords of the twentieth century are not the Lords of the seventeenth, and historic parallels which ignore profound alterations in the balance of society, classes, and economic conditions are, of all material, the most misleading. Into that error Professor Firth does not fall. No treatment could be more detached and scientific than his. And, whatever use may be made of the weapons he offers so impartially to either side, he has only sought and achieved that high and useful service of the historian to society and politics, the impartial portrayal of the past.

W. C. ABBOTT.

*Lord Chatham: his Early Life and Connections.* By Lord ROSEBERY. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1910. Pp. xii, 481.)

It is now five years since the appearance of von Ruville's exhaustive but unsympathetic biography of William Pitt, and two years since the second centenary of Pitt's birth awakened a new interest, if that were possible, in one who is perhaps the most picturesque and inscrutable figure in modern English history. Should any excuses be needed for presenting a fresh estimate of a famous man at least three may be urged for Lord Rosebery. In the first place, it is highly questionable whether von Ruville with all his pains succeeded in setting before us the real man; secondly, the present writer has had access to new materials and has made use of others not hitherto employed in this connection—notably, Mr. Fortescue's family collection of papers at Dropmore, the papers of Henry Fox at Holland House, a private manuscript written by Pitt's

nephew, Lord Camelford, entitled "Family Characters and Anecdotes", and certain of the Newcastle papers. Finally, the peculiar grace of Lord Rosebery's style makes his biography a charming piece of literature.

The work will rank with Trevelyan's *Early Life of Charles James Fox* as a classic torso. The author leaves Pitt at the very moment when he was entering upon his great work in 1756. His task, he tells us, is "only to describe the struggle and the ascent", not "the consummation and the glory of the career". His reason for thus limiting his subject is that, once embarked upon his wondrous course, Pitt deliberately shrouded himself from view. "In a word", says Lord Rosebery, "after 1756, when this book ends, his public life is conspicuous and familiar. But his inner life after that period will never be known." Regarding it as the true function of the biographer to reveal the real man rather than "to record his course as a statesman, his speeches, his triumphs, his achievements", he refuses to go beyond the point where the real man is lost in his public life.

The book opens with a series of graphic sketches of various of the "strange cockatrice brood of the Pitts", designed to show that there was a "lurking madness" among them which formed a part of William's family heritage. This should be compared with Sir Andrew Clark's dictum that "suppressed gout disordered the whole nervous system, and drove him into a state of mental depression, varying with excitement and equivalent to insanity. But there was no specific brain disease." Some sixty pages are occupied with Pitt's letters to his favorite sister, Anne, a brilliant but eccentric, formidable being. Valuable as "the sole record that we have of the unbending of that grim and stately figure", there are over many for what they reveal. Happily, from the few samples given, Lady Hester Pitt's "icicles" are mostly excluded as being "too proper" to print.

With magic art the author marshals Pitt's contemporaries living before us: Walpole, the man of business and *faux bonhomme*; the whole autolatrous tribe of the Grenvilles; the crapulous but gifted Carteret; the fussy Newcastle, and all the rest. Such a series of lifelike portraits has rarely been brought together in a single volume. New material and suggestive conjectures are brought to bear on the epochs in Pitt's early career, his dismissal from his cornetcy in 1736, his acceptance of subordinate office in 1746, and his entrance into the cabinet ten years later. Even when old ground is trodden fresh lights are thrown on the beaten path. Pitt's oratory has been described for us *ad nauseam*; but even the most jaded reader will welcome the extract from Lord Camelford (pp. 451-452).

There are a few evidences that Lord Rosebery has not always read the literature of his period with the necessary care. He states that "justice, has, perhaps, been scarcely done" to Newcastle, among other things to "his laborious life" and "his disinterestedness about money". The latter has been generally recognized, von Ruville does full justice to

the former, while Leadam is inclined to overestimate his capacity. Again, directing his attention too exclusively to Hervey's strictures, he undertakes a rather supererogatory task in rehabilitating George II., when Burke and Waldegrave in his own century, and Mahon, Lecky, and Trevelyan in the next, were mindful of that monarch's good points. Still again, he is over-sanguine of Prince Charlie's chances of conquering England if he had marched south at once in 1745. The tale of the tyrant and the poppies is older than Tarquin, doubtless a Roman copy of the story of Periander and Thrasybulus of Miletus. The index is excellent, but genealogical tables would be an added help.

It should be stated as a final word, that, while Lord Rosebery makes clear Pitt's faults and defects, the "reckless and irresponsible opposition" of his earlier years, his inconsistencies, his immodest advertisement of his virtues, his love of effect, his readiness to accept favors even from those he opposed, he still leaves us with the impression of a grand heroic figure whose character and achievements overshadow his blemishes.

ARTHUR LYON CROSS.

*La Diplomatie Secrète au XVIII<sup>e</sup> Siècle: Ses Débuts.* Tome III. *Le Secret de Dubois, Cardinal et Premier Ministre.* Par ÉMILE BOURGEOIS, Professeur à l'Université de Paris. (Paris: Armand Colin. 1910. Pp. 448.)

THIS is the third and last of M. Émile Bourgeois's series of volumes devoted to the beginnings of secret diplomacy in the eighteenth century. The general scope and characteristics of the work have already been described by the present reviewer in volume XIV., pp. 815-817, of this periodical. Taken as a whole, it covers the period from 1716 to 1723. The central figure throughout is the Abbé Dubois, and the author, by the aid of many new and important documents, traces, with firm grasp and eye steadily fixed on the main issue, the tortuous and complicated negotiations conducted by the gifted but unscrupulous intriguer to secure the succession of the Regent and his own advancement to the high positions of cardinal and first minister.

To attain these purely selfish ends the Regent was obliged to violate the promises of peace for France which he had made on coming to power, and to plunge the country into a costly policy, from which the nation at large derived no compensating advantage. During the first four years of this disastrous régime the interests of Hanover and Great Britain were advanced north and south, and Spain, the natural ally of the French, was well-nigh ruined. Then in 1720 when it seemed to suit his purpose Dubois suddenly shifted his policy and allied himself with the Farnese and Spain, again at considerable sacrifice to French interests. He was the creator of that secret policy for personal ends, as opposed to natural or public policy, which passed on as a baneful heritage to